

Homecoming Celebration
for
Esther R. Lee

Sunrise ♦ Sunset
June 30, 1931 ♦ January 29, 2001

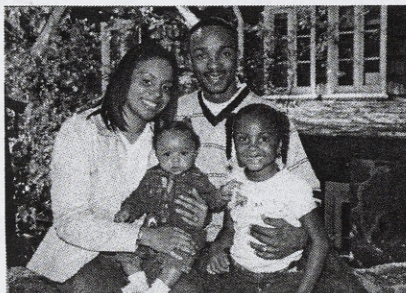
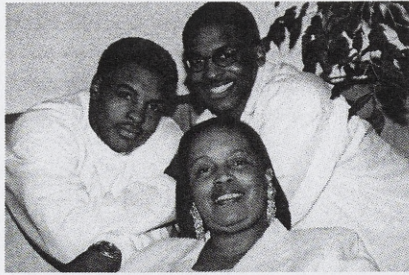
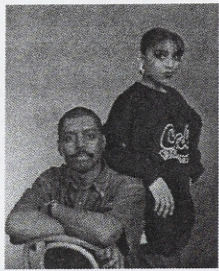
Monday, February 5, 2001
At 11:00 A.M.

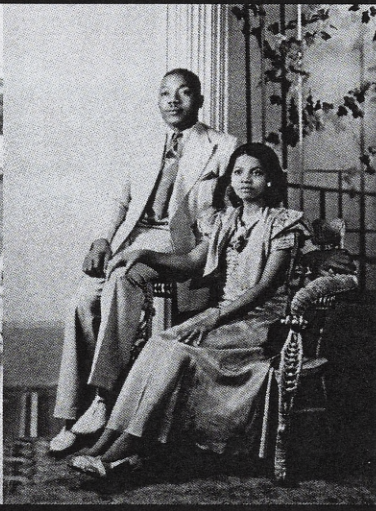
Mingleton Temple
1222 Market Street, Oakland, California
Pastor J. Evans

Officiating:
Dr. William E. Hill



"Bless the Lord, O my soul
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name"
Psalm 103:1





Sweet Hour of Prayer 333

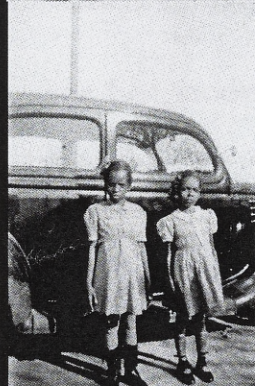
WILLIAM W. WALFORD WILLIAM B. BRIDGEMAN

1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my pe-ti-tion bear
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con-so-la-tion share,

And bids me at my Fa-ther's throne Make all my wants and wish-es known!
 To Him whose truth and faith-ful-ness En-gage the wait-ing soul to bless;
 Till from Mount Pis-gah's loft-y height I view my home and take my flight:

*RS- And oft ex-caped the tempter's snare By thy re-turn, sweet hour of prayer.
 RS- I'll cast on Him my ev-'ry care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
 RS- And shout, while pass-ing thro' the air, "Fore-well, fore-well, sweet hour of prayer!"*

In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief My soul has oft-en found re-lief,
 And since He bids me seek His face, Be-lieve His Word and trust His grace,
 This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the ev-er-last-ing prize,



Obituary

Esther Ruth was born at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 30, 1931 to Sadie Fair Cage. Her mother and stepfather, Robert Shannon, raised her. She confessed Christ at 12 years old in El Paso, Texas. She often reminisced about her born again experience at a revival where many young people accepted the Lord. Esther was already convinced that she too wanted Him as her Lord and Savior even before she got to the service.

Esther attended elementary and junior high school in El Paso, Texas. In 1946 she came to Oakland, California to spend time with her grandmother, Mother Cinderella Cage and her aunt, Juanita Cage Moore. Esther graduated from McClymonds High School, Oakland, California in June 1949.

Two months after graduation, she married Arvander Lee of Tyler, Texas on August 13, 1949. From this union were born two daughters, Arvanderlyn Ruth, Gwendolyn Marie; and one son, Mark Anthony. Esther supported her husband and children in their endeavors. She worked fervently to insure that everyone's needs were met. She worked at the Oakland Army Base for 30 years and retired in 1994.

When her husband was called into the ministry in 1968, Sis. Lee stood beside Pastor Arvander Lee and quietly served in the ministry until her passing. Bethesda Church of God In Christ was a second home for Esther as she worked in the kitchen, played the piano, sung under the anointing and hosted Women's Day services and much more. In her later years, she would exhort and speak words of wisdom and encouragement.

Esther quietly departed this life peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 29, 2001. Her father, Mr. Robert Shannon and her mother, Sadie Cage Shannon, preceded her in death.

She touched the lives of so many young people, co-workers and neighbors and she was well loved and respected by all.

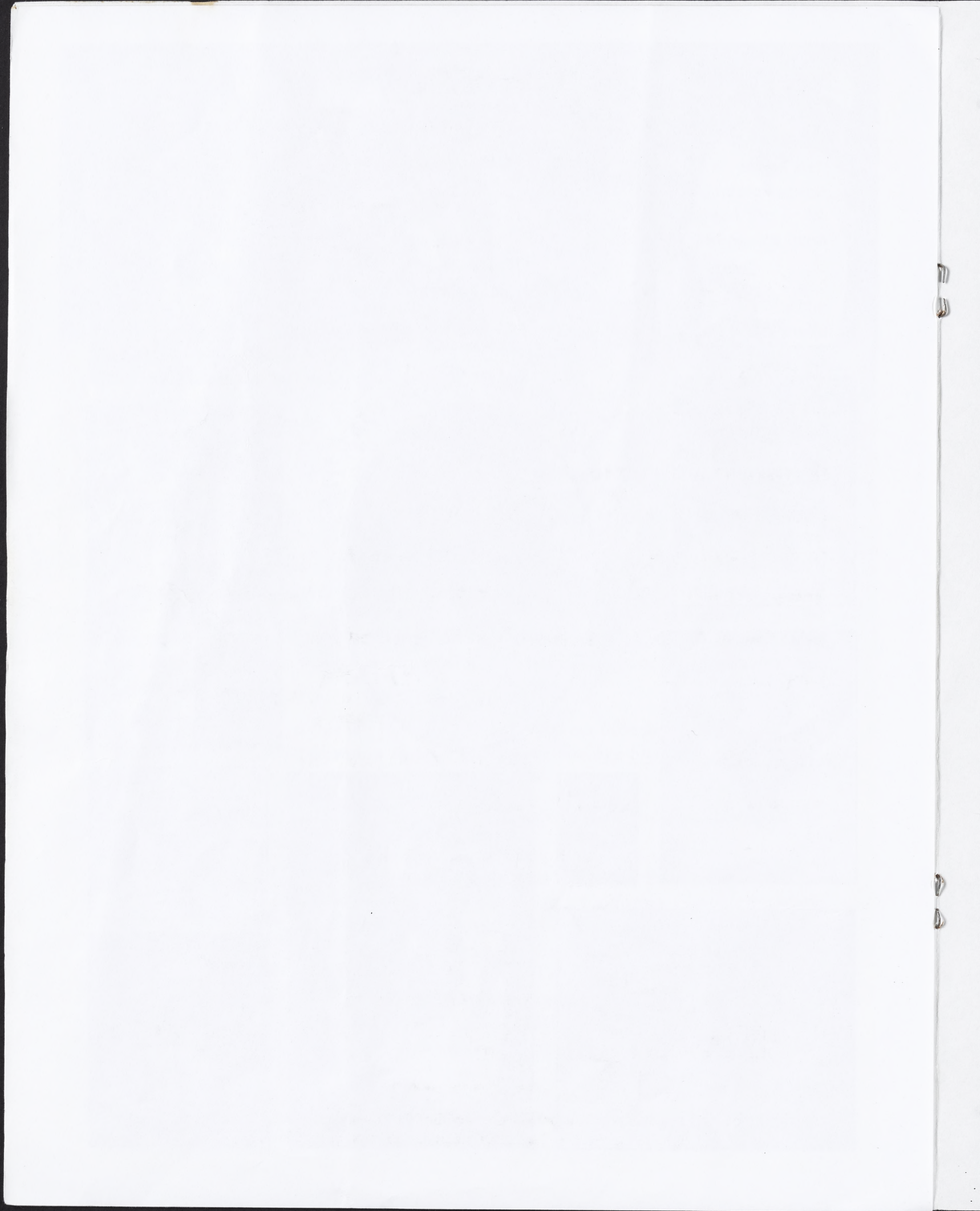
Esther leaves to cherish her memory: her husband of 51 years, Pastor Arvander Lee, two daughters, Arvanderlyn Ruth Campbell of Oakland, California, Gwendolyn Marie Mitchell of Berkeley, California, Mark Anthony Lee of Oakland, California; five grandchildren, Mia Rashaan Mitchell-Haynes, Tavis Dyami Campbell, Tory Dion Campbell, Caleb Aaron Mitchell, Naima Tasha Lee; one grandson in-law, Uveli Haynes, one granddaughter in-law, Roxana Beatriz Campbell and two great grandchildren, Kaelah Iman Haynes and Kristian Mekhi Haynes; a host of family and friends and her affectionate and endearing church family, Bethesda Church of God In Christ.

Sis. Lee will be dearly missed by those she loved and those who loved her.



Memorable Expressions





Order of Service

Master of Ceremonies – Elder Richard Millentree, Ceres, California

Organ Prelude.....	Eld. Charles Renard Webb
Processional.....	Pastors, Elders, Pallbearers, Family
Scripture – Old Testament.....	Elder V. MucCular
Scripture – New Testament.....	Elder J. Mitchell
Prayer	Elder A. Scott
Musical Selection.....	Webb Sisters
Acknowledgement of Cards.....	Patrice MucCular
Obituary/Resolution.....	Patrice MucCular

Remarks (limit to 3 minutes please)

Musical Selection.....	Webb Sisters
Poem – “ <i>Special Lady</i> ”.....	Tavis D. Campbell
<i>Tribute to Granny</i>	Caleb Mitchell, Vey Haynes, Tory Campbell
<i>Solo</i> – “There’s A Brighter Day Somewhere”...	Pastor Dorothy Cage
Eulogy.....	Dr. William E. Hill Pastor, Brown Memorial AME Church Pasadena, California
Glimpse to Glory.....	Colonial Chapel in charge
Recessional.....	

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial park
Richmond, California

Pallbearers

Tavis Campbell
Tory Campbell

Paul Edwards
Uveli Haynes

Ranzell Merritt
Caleb Mitchell

Honorary Pallbearers

Elder John H. Malone
Elder James Mitchell

Elder A. Scott
Mark A. Lee

Arthur C. Mitchell, III
Fitz Watson

Homegoing Dinner

Bethesda Church of God In Christ
2845 38th Avenue • Oakland, California 94619 • (510) 533-7117

Granny

My head is flooded with precious memories of you,
Your smile, your giggle with your hand over your mouth, your soft voice,
your smooth skin, your beautiful hair, your youthful hands.

The time I've had with you is irreplaceable.
We've shared so much with each other, including our sign.

I can't thank you enough for living the life you have lived before us.
I am totally who I am today because of you. You showed me how to be giving,
you would give your last. You showed me how to be a Mother, you were so nurturing
to everyone, even those who weren't your own. You showed me how to be a Wife,
You stuck by Granddaddy no matter how challenging it would be sometimes.
Most importantly, you showed me how to live a life pleasing to Christ.

I'm trying not to be selfish and wanting you here. I'm going to keep on living
like you taught me, I'll see you when I get there!

Love your 1st Grandchild
Mia

A Tribute to Aunt Esther

Dear Sweet Aunt Esther,

The "heart" of her family always kind with a word of encouragement for us all.
A Cheerful smile and warm hug, made us know that we were welcome.
You never hesitated to direct us in the right way, made us know that we were loved.
You accepted us as we came along, one by one, by birth or by marriage. We always
enjoyed when you played the piano and led songs in the church services. Your sense of
humor could not be beat. We will miss you, but we know that God needed another Angel.
We won't ever forget you.

Love you,

Your Nieces and Nephews

Truly, silver and gold you had none, but that which you gave me over
the years was far greater. Because of your obedience to Christ, I now
have been birthed into a wonderful inheritance full of blessing, prosperity,
anointing, righteousness, and favor from God. All of my success in building
the kingdom of God is directly related to your obedience to Christ. You have
modeled what it means to care, serve, and love those around you. You were
the consummate grandmother in every way of the word. There is no greater
gift that I would ever want or desire than the love you have shown this family.
I thank you for demonstrating a life fully surrendered to Christ. For not only can
Paul say, "Follow me as I follow Christ," but so can you. Thank you Granny for the life
you've breathed into me. Never could one imagine that so much life could come out
of such a petite frame.

Much Love,

Toe Toe

"Granny"

Sent from Heaven, to this place we call Earth.
This is where she's been, since day one of her birth.

So precious, so small, just like her little dolls,
Amongst the Giants, she stood proud and so tall.

Loved by everyone, and she loved us all too.
I wished you were still here with us, so we can call you.

You sure would laugh, when I'd come to your house
and pickup your cordless phone. Then you would look at me
and say "Boy you sure can talk long". It tickled you so much,
you thought it was funny, to hear me say "I'm just trying to make some money".

For now you're gone, you touched the lives of so many,
without you here, inside we feel empty.

Until we see your face again, keep smiling down on us, from up in Heaven.

Love,

Vey

Special Lady

When I think of a Lady whose facial expressions
told you exactly how she was feel'n,

I think of a special lady, a spiritual warrior.

She played everything in the key of "F",
the only woman who could play "Life" to death.

A four foot eleven giant, blessing people with her presence,
4000 Nevil Street,
The home of soul food, laughs, tears, Ebony and Essence.

Softer than a rose petal, with a bottomless heart full of love,
gracious like a dove,
always there to be greeted by a soft kiss and a hug.

You will never be forgotten, you are in a class of your own,
I'm so excited for you Granny!

You've reached your Mansion, your robe, walking on gold roads.

I understand why God wanted you up there with him in the sky,
just do me a favor,
Tell Grandma Sadie, MaMa and PaPa I said "Hi".

Love, Tavis

*The family would like to thank you all for your loving thoughts,
prayers, comforting calls, cards, dishes of food, and unwavering support,
much love to you all and may God bless.*



*I'll be seeing you again,
Love Esther*



Design By
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